



# JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

James L. Clifford, Editor—John H. Muddendorf, Ass't Editor

610 Philosophy Hall, Columbia University,  
New York 27, N. Y.

Vol. XII, No. 4

December 1952

## A Valuable Tool For Scholars

For all 18th-century research workers and for all who teach the literature of the period the most important publication of this year is Volume II of *English Literature 1660-1800: a Bibliography of Modern Studies Compiled for Philological Quarterly*, edited by Louis A. Landa (Princeton University Press). This volume includes the annual bibliographies for the years 1939 to 1950, reproduced by lithography with no excisions. It will be remembered that the first volume, covering the years 1926 through 1938, appeared in 1950.

What enhances the usefulness of these lists immeasurably is the general index to both volumes which appears in the present publication. As prepared by Landa, it includes the names of all modern and 18th-century persons, and also a few important topics. While ideally we may regret that a complete subject index was too difficult to prepare, we should all welcome the inclusion of such controlling ideas as the Ancient and Modern Controversy, the baroque, enthusiasm, gothic, Nature, the Noble Savage, primitivism, sentimentalism. Just think how useful these two volumes will be. Suppose a student comes in for advice about a term paper. He thinks he might like to write on Ambrose Philips, or Anna Seward, or on orientalism, or primitivism. You take down your copies of Landa and send him speedily to the books and articles specifically having to do with his theme. Of course, sources not carrying the topic in their titles will still have to be sought in the old manner, so that there will still be some justification for advisors. But with these volumes ever at hand the routine searching will be made simple and efficient. Indeed, the complaint may soon be heard that preparing the bibliography of a research paper has become too easy!

## Boswell Notes

Bob Metzdorf (now Curator of Manuscripts in the Yale Library) has turned up a little-known set of verses written by a Scottish minister after the death of Boswell in 1795. He has reproduced the piece in facsimile, with a critical Introduction, and it may be had from the Shoe String Press, Hamden, Conn. for the price of \$2. The exact title of the little pamphlet is *An Epistle in Verse, Occasioned by the Death of James Boswell Esquire of Auchinleck. Addressed to the Rev. Dr. T.D. by the Rev. Samuel Martin.* As Metzdorf points out, the chief significance of the piece is what it shows us of the contemporary attitude towards Boswell. While not a great piece of poetry, it contains some shrewd estimates of character, obviously the result of rather intimate acquaintance. The facsimile is made from a copy formerly owned by Col. Ralph Isham, to whom the present version is dedicated.

We wish to revise a statement made in our last issue concerning the sale of the dramatic rights of the *London Journal* by McGraw-Hill. The report quoted from the *New York Times* turns out to be incorrect. This should cure us of repeating unchecked casual news items from the papers, but we are hard to reform, and pass on the gossip that a new publisher, the St. Martin's Press, will publish in February a novel by Miss M. A. Muir entitled *Dear Mrs. Boswell* -- all about the biographer's wife. More of this later if it turns out to be true.

A correspondent takes us to task for stating in our last number that *Boswell in Holland* was well received in England, pointing out the adverse reviews in *FLS* and *John o' London's*. But after looking at a collection of most of the English reviews, we still cling to our original position. Except for a few dissenting voices, it was well received. A good many readers liked it even more than the *London Journal*.

From Fritz Güttinger in Zurich comes a copy of his translation of the *London Journal* into German. It is beautifully printed by Diana Verlag, with the same format, and contains the text and notes of the British edition. We send congratulations to Güttinger and his publisher. So far we haven't seen the French translation, but we hear it is very Gallic in appearance and style.

Some recent Boswellian references to be noted are: Louis Baldwin "The Conversation in Boswell's *Life of Johnson* in *JEGP* for October, and Bob Halsband's discussion of two recent volumes in the last *Hudson Review*.



## Portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds

If some general readers may find the latest volume of the Yale Boswell Papers disappointing, not so amusing as Boswell's own revealing journals, active Johnsonians should find it exciting indeed. We have no intention here of entering into the controversy as to whether the new material was too scanty for a whole volume, whether the price is too high, or the title a little misleading. These are matters outside our province. What we want to stress instead is the importance of the book to all teachers of 18th-century literature. Even though the quantity of the recent discoveries is not so great as hoped, the quality is high. It is difficult to imagine anyone ever again lecturing on Goldsmith without quoting the delicious account of his manner of telling a story. Nor should anyone attempt to evaluate the character of Garrick without due consideration of Reynolds' shrewd estimate. Certainly Sir Joshua's own claim to consideration as a creative writer is further buttressed.

What will undoubtedly prove to be the most valuable discovery for students of aesthetics is the hitherto unsuspected "Ironical Discourse," written when Reynolds was an old man, in protest against the radicalism of the new school of artists made up of men like William Blake. As further documentation of the basic shift of taste at the end of the century, it is a major find. Other items to be welcomed are new fragments containing Reynolds' thoughts on Shakespeare, some new letters, and the reprinting from the only known manuscript of Sir Joshua's delightful Johnsonian dialogues.

Something should be said of Ted Hilles' admirable editing. Faced with the difficult task of joining the miscellaneous pieces together in a single volume, he has shown taste and skill. He gives us all we need to know, without parading his learning, or overdoing the annotation. His running commentary effectively carries the reader along. In brief, McGraw-Hill and the Yale editors have produced a beautiful book, which will be constantly consulted for generations to come.

The Garrick and Goldsmith "portraits," as many of you will have seen, were first printed in *SRL* for October 11, and November 15.

## The Manuscript of "Windsor Forest"

In an earlier number we commented on the discovery at Washington University in St. Louis of a 1712 manuscript of *Windsor Forest* in Pope's handwriting. Bob Schmitz of the English Department there has now brought out a beautiful facsimile of the manuscript, together with a valuable Introduction and a detailed analysis of various changes in the text which were made in later printed editions. The large handsome 68 page brochure appears as New Series No. 21 of the Washington University Series in Language and Literature. Students of the creative process will find much to mull over in Schmitz's examination of Pope's changes, studied in the light of the poet's own so-called "rules" set down in his letters to Walsh and Cromwell in 1706 and 1710. Here is visual evidence of Pope's striving for perfect expression.

## Johnsoniana

On the evening of September 18, as usual, a group of Johnsonians celebrated Johnson's birthday with a dinner at the Grolier Club in New York City. Ted Hilles (Yale) was in the chair, and there were talks by Donald Hyde, Fritz Liebert and your editor. The customary toasts were drunk and there was good talk till early in the morning. Guests were presented with an interesting little brochure entitled *Dr. Johnson Rebuked: a Hitherto Unrecorded Incident in His Life as Revealed in a Letter from Dr. Samuel Glassey with a Commentary by Frederick W. Hilles*.

We have had no reports of the birthday dinners in Buenos Aires and in Oslo, but we have had several letters describing the very successful celebration in Lichfield. A.S. Hall Johnson from Argentina was there, and our country was represented by the Jim Osborns. The President, Percy Laithwaite, read a most interesting paper on Anna Seward, which soon should be in print.

We pass on the year's program of the London Johnson Society, in the event that any of our readers will be able to attend some of the meetings. Dec. 20 -- H.A. Morgan, "Johnson and Public Affairs"; Jan. 24 -- F.W.M. Draper, "Johnson, His Friends, and the Theatre"; Feb. 21 -- R.W. Keton-Cremer, "Doctor Johnson and William Windham"; March 21 -- Noel Boston, "William Cowper"; April 25 -- S.C. Roberts, "The Discovery of James Boswell."



A very important article by Frank Taylor entitled "Johnsoniana from the Bagshawe Muniments in the John Rylands Library: Sir James Caldwell, Dr. Hawkesworth, Dr. Johnson, and Boswell's Use of the 'Caldwell Minute'" appeared in the September issue of the *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*. In an earlier number of *JNL* we mentioned the fact that some valuable Johnsonian material had turned up in a great mass of material turned over to the Rylands Library by the Bagshawe family of Ford Hall in Derbyshire. Now comes a full account of what was found, admirably described by Taylor. Of greatest importance is an accurate printing of the Caldwell copy of Johnson's own version of his interview with the King. A comparison of this so-called "minute", used by Boswell along with other sources, with the dramatic account in the *Life* is very instructive. Believing that many Johnsonians will wish to have a copy of this article, the John Rylands Library (Deansgate, Manchester, England) has made available off-prints, at the price of 3 shillings. Send for a copy for your Library.

Other recent Johnsonian articles to be mentioned are: Arthur Sherbo, "The Proof-Sheets of Dr. Johnson's Preface to Shakespeare" in the *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* for September; a fanciful essay "Dr. Johnson on Television" by Mary Lowrey Ross in *Saturday Night* (Toronto) for October 11; and D.F. Rowan, "Johnson's 'Lives': an Unrecorded Variant and a New Portrait," *The Book Collector*, Autumn 1952.

## Johnson's Literary Criticism

There are various ways of approaching Johnson's criticism. One can study it chronologically, following his development through successive stages. Or one can concentrate on individual works. Jean Hagstrum (Northwestern) in his *Samuel Johnson's Literary Criticism* (Univ. of Minn. Press) prefers to follow another road. He is more interested in probing Johnson's general theories, in seeking the basis of his ideas, and then showing how he handled certain major concepts of the day such as Nature, Pleasure, Language and Form, the Beautiful, Pathetic, and Sublime, and True Wit. In the *JNL*, unfortunately, we can do no more than to suggest the nature of Hagstrum's approach. Although each reader may object to some point or other, the general conclusion --

that Johnson cannot conveniently be labelled as "neoclassic" or "authoritarian" -- is now well established and can scarcely be disputed. Hagstrum's service is to provide excellent documentation for a thorough study of Johnson's thought. We recommend the book as stimulating and provocative reading.

### Dr. Johnson's Lichfield

In our last number we mentioned a forthcoming book -- Mary Alden Hopkins' *Dr. Johnson's Lichfield*. It has now appeared, attractively published by Hastings House, and giving an interesting account of life in 18th-century Staffordshire. For general readers it should prove entertaining reading. And, of course, what scholar isn't also a general reader? Only a part of the book is given over to the Great Cham -- his early years, his many visits to the Midlands during his later life. There are chapters on the other celebrated inhabitants of the city, with much about Anna Seward, Richard Lovell Edgeworth, John Saville, Thomas Day, and Erasmus Darwin, to name only a few. Much of what she tells is well known, but there are new letters quoted and a wealth of hitherto uncollected descriptive material. She has had the help of Percy Laithwaite, who, as is his habit, generously supplied much of the new information.

We must confess that in places we disagree slightly with some of her conclusions -- for example, we feel certain that Johnson must have known and admired Molly Aston long before 1739 -- but these are minor concerns. Certainly as in introduction to Johnson's home city, the book is very useful.

Discussing her book, Mary Alden Hopkins appeared on the Mary Margaret McBride radio program at 1 P.M. over W.J.Z. and affiliated stations on Monday, November 24.

### Notes on the Novel

An impressive two-volume biography of Henry Fielding, by F.H. Dudden, Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, has just arrived from the Clarendon Press. Obviously, comment on this must wait until our next number.



Lewis Knapp (Colorado College) writes suggesting that we refer to "a very readable and up-to-date account of Smollett by Laurence Brander in a 36-page pamphlet, *Tobias Smollett*, published for the British Council and the National Book League by Longman's Green, price 1/6, as one of the Bibliographical Series of Supplements to *British Book News* (1951)." Knapp also adds that he had received a sheet from British *Everybody's* magazine for April 21, 1951, which included a popular article on Smollett called "Doctor Who Wrote of the Sea," also by Laurence Brander.

Through some unhappy accident we have never referred to the Augustan Reprint Society's issue No. 32, *Prefaces to Fiction*, selected with an Introduction by Ben Boyce (Duke). Included in this valuable aid to teachers of the history of the novel are: Georges de Scudéry, Preface to *Ibrahim* (1674); Mary De la Riviere Manly, Preface to *The Secret History of Queen Zarah* (1705); Jean-Baptiste de Boyer, Marquis d'Argens, *The Jewish Spy*, Letter 35 (1744); William Warburton, Preface to Vols. III and IV of *Clarissa* (1748); Samuel Derrick, Preface to d'Argens's *Memoirs of the Count Du Beauval* (1754).

A recent book issued by Macmillan is S. Diana Neill's *Short History of the English Novel*. Articles to be listed are: Ian Watt, "Realism and the Novel" in *Essays in Criticism* for Oct. 1952; Harry Robins, "How Smart Was Robinson Crusoe?" *PMLA* for Sept.; L. P. Goggin, "Development of Techniques in Fielding's Comedies" *PMLA* for Sept. (useful in the study of the novels).

## NEW BOOKS

For some years J.E. Congleton (Univ. of Florida) has been engaged in a thorough study of the pastoral, and has now produced a valuable work *Theories of Pastoral Poetry in England 1684-1798* (Univ. of Florida Press). The publishers advertise it as the third of an unplanned trilogy of books concerned with the critical theories of major genres, the other two being C.C. Green's *The Neo-Classic Theory of Tragedy in England* and H.T. Swedenberg's *The Theory of the Epic in England 1650-1800*. What Congleton does is to examine the change of critical outlook from Rapin to Drake, first chronologically and then by themes. He makes a clear distinction between what he considers the neo-

classic school and the rationalistic school and shows how the latter gradually lead to the full-blown romantic. In *JNL* we do not have room for an extensive discussion of this important book, but recommend it to all interested in 18th-century critical theory and practice.

Sir Harold Williams's Saunders Lectures delivered at Cambridge University in 1950 have now appeared in a small volume entitled *The Text of "Gulliver's Travels"* (Cambridge Univ. Press). In brief, this is a detailed reply to the claim of the late Arthur Case that the best text of *Gulliver* is that made up from Motte's first edition emended from Ford's "list." As in the past, Williams supports the position that the Faulkner 1735 text gives a more accurate rendering of Swift's ideas, and buttresses his conviction with a mass of evidence. Of the new facts presented, what would appear to be of major importance is the proof that Faulkner for his edition used a set of the 1727-32 *Miscellanies*, carefully corrected in Swift's handwriting. Never again can it be doubted that Swift was closely connected with the 1735 printing of his works. Williams's little volume, admirably reasoned, is an important contribution to Swift scholarship.

A delightful little book just published by the Clarendon Press in England is Charles Mitchell's new edition of *Hogarth's Peregrination*. You may remember that in the summer of 1732 Hogarth and some friends made an impromptu trip into Kent; one of the group chronicling the junket, with Hogarth doing some illustrations. The amusing episode has long been known, but Mitchell now gives the first accurate version, with all the illustrations, with maps, accounts, etc. Included also is William Gostling's account of the peregrination in hudiabastic verse. We feel certain you will find it fun to read.

Unfortunately we have not yet had a chance to examine thoroughly Samuel Kliger's *The Goths in England: a Study in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Thought* (Harvard Univ. Press) so that we can only list it this time.

Until this year there has never been a complete biography of the author of *The Busy Body* and *The Wonder: a Woman Keeps a Secret*, two of the popular comedies of the 18th and 19th centuries. Now appears John Wilson Bowyer's *The Celebrated Mrs. Centlivre* (Duke Univ. Press), the result of over twenty years' research. Here finally is what can be discovered about the



lady's life and of the stage history of her plays. If personally she still remains a somewhat shadowy character it is not Bowyer's fault. There simply is not enough surviving evidence to settle the many perplexing problems connected with the legends that have gathered about her reputation. But happily we now have a trustworthy examination of the facts and an appreciative criticism of her work.

In our last issue we predicted that Louis Kronenberger's *The Thread of Laughter* would be witty and delightfully written. We think you will agree that we were right. Here is a perceptive and urbane discussion of comedy, particularly Restoration comedy, which perfectly fits the subject matter. Personally we liked best the chapters on Etherege, Mrs. Behn, and Congreve. You will probably have your own favorites. For students just coming to the comedy of manners it should be an excellent introduction. Another recent book on Restoration Comedy, just out, is Thomas H. Fujimura's *The Restoration Comedy of Wit* (Princeton Univ. Press), which defends late seventeenth-century drama from the charge of being artificial and shallow.

At the end of our last issue we mentioned Ian Jack's study of Augustan satire (Clarendon), giving some hint of its contents. Since then we have been using it in connection with our teaching with valuable results. Combined with the recent work of Maynard Mack and Bill Wimsatt at Yale among others, it is very useful in stressing the rhetorical theories behind the work of the great satirists. The new approach should revolutionize the advanced teaching of 18th-century poetry.

The Clarendon Press has just published a second edition of your editor's *Hester Lynch Piozzi (Mrs. Thrale)*, first issued in 1941 and long out of print. Because it has been produced by lithography from the second printing of the first edition, only a few changes and corrections have been possible. Additions have been limited to a short additional bibliography of recent special studies of Mrs. Piozzi.

Other books to be mentioned are: John W. Cosentini's *Fontenelle's Art of Dialogue* (Columbia Univ. Press); Teddy Brunius, *David Hume on Criticism* (Univ. of Uppsala, 1952). Other Uppsala productions, which we do not believe we have mentioned, are Johannes Soderlind's *Verb Syntax in John Dryden's Prose*; and Jan Lannering's *Studies in the Prose Style of Joseph Addison*.

H. Allen Smith's *Smith's London Journal*, which from the advertisement we took to be a humorous take-off of Boswell, turns out to have not much 18th-century body to it. It is merely what purports to be a funny account of a recent trip by the author to England, with a few scattered parallels with Boswell.

### Miscellaneous News Items

This last year the *JNL* has struggled through one difficulty after another. As a final blow, the Columbia Univ. Press discontinued the department which handled our manufacture, and we must now seek another publisher. As this is being written we do not know how the next issue will be produced, but hope some new arrangement may soon be made.

This autumn George Sherburn was awarded a D. Litt. by the University of London -- another honor for 18th-century scholarship.

Louis Kronenberger reminds us that Theodore Besterman is editing what is hoped will be a definitive edition of Voltaire, and in connection with Voltaire's letters is very anxious that owners in the United States let him know of their possessions. His address is care the Institute et Musée Voltaire, Les Délices, Geneva, Switzerland.

From Curt Zimansky (Iowa) comes a most ingenious perpetual calendar which he has designed, which works equally well for both the old and new calendars. As he comments, it is the one valuable product of eighteen months spent in Korea.

We have had a number of letters applauding the proposal made in a former number concerning the formation of a Pope Society. Henry Pettit (Colorado), however, suggests making it a "Queen Anne" Society, and Joel Haines (Lancaster Pa.) agrees in wanting a straight Augustan Society -- to include all those interested in the earlier period. Who is interested in getting such a project started?

### Coming Books

Momentarily expected from the Oxford Press in England are Percy Scholes new life of Sir John Hawkins, and R.W. Chapman's three volume edition of Johnson's letters.



Another volume soon to be brought out by the Clarendon Press is *New Hume Letters*, edited by Ernest Mossner and Raymond Klibansky of McGill University. The book is a supplement to Greig's two volume edition, and contains 121 letters, of which 93 are not in Greig, and 28 are there only in part. It might be added that Mossner's exhaustive two volume life of Hume, which is to be published in the United Kingdom by Nelson's and in the U.S. by the Texas University Press, will soon be in galley proof.

Clarence Tracy's (Saskatchewan) life of Richard Savage is to be published by the Univ. of Toronto Press in conjunction with the University of Saskatchewan.

Maurice Quinlan's (College of St. Thomas, St. Paul) new life of William Cowper will be published by the Univ. of Minnesota Press, early this winter.

### Some Recent Articles

Concerned with Swift are: Emile Pons, "Swift et Pascal" in *Les Langues Moderne*, for March-April 1951; Lewis A. Dralle, "Kingdom in Reversion: the Irish Viceroyalty of the Earl of Wharton, 1708-1710" in *HLQ* for August; George Sherburn, "The Swift-Pope *Miscellanies* of 1732" in *Harvard Library Bulletin* for Autumn 1952; J.R. Moore, "Swift as Historian" in *SP* for October.

With the approach of the bicentenary of the death of Bishop Berkeley there are numerous articles having to do with his work. A few to be listed are: J.P. de C. Day, "George Berkeley, 1685-1753; Part I" in *Review of Metaphysics* for Sept.; Dennis Grey, "The Solipsism of Bishop Berkeley" in *Philosophical Quarterly* for October; Sidney Gelber, "Universal Language and Sciences of Man in Berkeley" in *JHI* for October. Other articles having to do with the philosophers are: Leo Strauss, "On Locke's Doctrine of Natural Right" in *Philosophical Review* for October; Richard H. Popkin, "David Hume and the Pyrrhonian Controversy" in *Review of Metaphysics* for Sept.; J.B. Shouse, "David Hume and William James; a Comparison" in *JHI* for October; Ernest C. Mossner, "Hume and the French Men of Letters," in *Revue Internationale de Philosophie*, No. 20 (1952)

A few general articles to be listed are: Vincent Freimark, "The Bible and Neo-classical Views of Style" in *JEGP* for Oct.;

Edward Hughes, "The Professions in the Eighteenth Century" in *Durham Univ. Journal* for March; Margaret M. Starkey, "The History of Ideas and Literary Studies" in *MLQ* for Sept.; H.A. Hammelmann, "Eighteenth-Century English Illustrators: Samuel Wade" *The Book Collector*, Autumn 1952.

Some special studies are: W.O.S. Sutherland Jr., "Polonius, Hamlet and Lear in Aaron Hill's *Prompter*" in *SP* for October; Donald B. Clark, "An Eighteenth-Century Adaptation of Massinger" in *MLQ* for Sept.; R.A. Leigh, "Les Amities française du Dr. Burney, Quelques Documents inédits" in *Revue de Littérature comparée*, April-June 1951; C.P. Barbier, "Goldsmith en France au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle" in the same journal for Oct.-Dec. 1951; Bernard Martin, "Fresh Light on William Cowper" in *MLQ* for September.

Having to do with a great 18th-century collection is R.W. Chapman's essay-review of W.S. Lewis's *Collector's Progress* in *The Listener* for July 24.

### Augustan Reprint Society

In a recent announcement the Augustan Reprint Society lists possible publications for the year 1952-53. Six items will be chosen from the following: Selections from the *Fatler*, *Spec-tator*, and *Guardian*, ed. Donald Bond; Mandeville's *A Letter to Dion*, (1732), ed. Jacob Viner; M.C. Sarbielewski's *The Odes of Casimire* (1846), ed. Maren-Sofie Roestvig; *An Essay on the New Species of Writing Founded by Mr. Fielding* (1751), ed. James A. Work; Thomas Morrison's(?) *A Pindarick Ode on Painting* (1767), ed. F.W. Hilles; John Phillips's(?) *Satyr Against Hypocrits* (1655), ed. Leon Howard; Prefaces to Fiction, Second Series, ed. Charles Davies; Thomas Warton's *A History of English Poetry: an Unpublished Continuation*, ed. Rodney M. Balne. Membership is still \$3 a year — one of the best bargains ever. Address Clark Library, 2205 W. Adams Blvd. Los Angeles 18, Calif.